

REMARKS

Claims 6, 19-21, 23-33, 38-40, 60-71, 81-84 and 94-96 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 6, 19, 20, 23, 25, 27, 31, 60 and 81 are amended to be in independent form. Claim 38 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 41. Claims 1-5, 7, 12-18, 22, 34-37, 41, 72-80, 85-93, 97 and 98 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. In addition, claims 21, 24 and 30 are amended to conform to the claim amendments. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested, at least in light of the following Remarks.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on January 3, 2011. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the Form PTO-1449.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 6, 19-21, 23, 25-29, 31-33, 41, 60-71, 81-84 and 94-96 contain allowable subject matter.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7, 12-18, 22, 24, 30, 34-40, 97 and 98 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0160582 to Lof et al. ("Lof"); and rejects claims 1, 2, 12-16, 30, 36-40, 72-80, 85-93, 97 and 98 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lof in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,882,406 to Kurt et al. ("Kurt"). The cancellation of claims 1-5, 7, 12-18, 22, 34-37, 72-80, 85-93, 97 and 98 render the rejections of those claims moot. The rejections of the remaining claims are respectfully traversed.

Claim 38 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 41. Therefore, claim 38 is patentable.

Dependent claims 24, 30, 39 and 40 depend from independent claims 23, 25 and 38, respectively. Therefore, those dependent claims are patentable at least for their dependence from claims 23, 25 and 38, as well as for the additional features those claims recite.

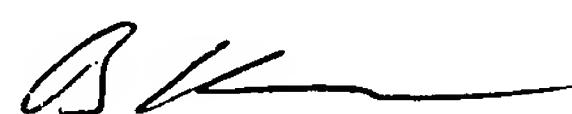
Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

Brian K. Kauffman
Registration No. 63,199

MAC:BKK/jls

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal

Date: January 28, 2011

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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